

but destroyed 36 residences and 18 out-buildings. Over 3,000 personnel from across the State were summoned to fight the fire which burned more than 4000 acres. My heart goes out to the 12 firefighters who were injured during the response and their families. I want to commend Governor Schwarzenegger, the California Office of Emergency Services, Cal Fire, the Santa Clara and Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Departments, the Air National Guard, the National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration and the countless first responders for their swift response to the fire. I especially want to thank Cal Fire Division Chief Joe Waterman and Tom Maruyama, Deputy Director of Response and Recovery for Office of Emergency Services for briefing me on the fire containment plan and the State's response and recovery efforts. The seamless communication between ground and air crews from various local agencies and departments further exemplifies California as a model State for disaster response and interoperability.

I and my esteemed colleague Rep. ANNA ESHOO are closely monitoring the recovery effort and remain in close contact with State authorities. We are hopeful that the rebuilding process can begin and that the residents of the affected areas will be able to resume their normal activities.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2008

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 355, on agreeing to the Akin amendment to H.R. 5658, the Department of Defense Authorization Act, 2009, I was unavoidably absent due to a family medical emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted "no"; on rollcall No. 356, on agreeing to the Franks, AZ, amendment to H.R. 5658, the Department of Defense Authorization Act, 2009, had I been present, I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall No. 357, on agreeing to the Tierney amendment to H.R. 5658, the Department of Defense Authorization Act, 2009, had I been present, I would have voted "no"; on rollcall No. 358, on agreeing to the Pearce amendment to H.R. 5658, the Department of Defense Authorization Act, 2009, had I been present, I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall No. 359, on agreeing to the Lee amendment to H.R. 5658, the Department of Defense Authorization Act, 2009, had I been present, I would have voted "no"; on rollcall No. 360, on agreeing to the Braley amendment to H.R. 5658, the Department of Defense Authorization Act, 2009, had I been present, I would have voted "no"; on rollcall No. 361, on agreeing to the Price, NC, amendment to H.R. 5658, the Department of Defense Authorization Act, 2009, had I been present, I would have voted "no"; on rollcall No. 362, on agreeing to the Holt amendment to H.R. 5658, the Department of Defense Authorization Act, 2009, had I been present, I would have voted "no"; on rollcall No. 363, on agreeing to the McGovern amendment to H.R. 5658, the Department of Defense Authorization Act, 2009, had I been present, I would have voted "no";

on rollcall No. 364, on the motion to recommit with instructions H.R. 5658, the Department of Defense Authorization Act, 2009, had I been present, I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall No. 365, on passage of H.R. 5658, the Department of Defense Authorization Act, 2009, had I been present, I would have voted "aye"; and on rollcall No. 366, on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 986, Recognizing the courage and sacrifice of those members of the United States Armed Forces who were held as prisoners of war during the Vietnam conflict and calling for a full accounting of the 1,729 members of the Armed Forces who remain unaccounted for from the Vietnam conflict, had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

IN RECOGNITION OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Cuyahoga County Community College, Ohio's oldest community college, as the college hosts this year's Memorial Day Celebration along with the Memorial Day Association of Greater Cleveland.

Cuyahoga County Community College (Tri-C) opened in 1963 and now serves more than fifty-five thousand credit and non-credit students each year. Tri-C provides students with a first-rate education environment with professors who are committed to their success at their three traditional campuses. Tri-C also offers students the option to earn their associate degree, participate in certificate programs and complete two years of a baccalaureate degree at two Corporate College locations, over fifty off-campus sites, and through various distance learning options.

Cuyahoga County Community College is one of the premier sites for many of the major cultural, community and sporting events that more than five-hundred thousand Greater Cleveland Area residents attend throughout the year. The college hosts one of the nation's largest educational Jazz festivals, Tri-C JazzFest Cleveland. This year the college hosts the annual Memorial Day Celebration, State Senator Robert F. Spada as the guest speaker, who has been representing Ohio since 1999.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing Cuyahoga County Community College as they host this year's Memorial Day Celebration and for the college's contributions to the Greater Cleveland Area.

HONORING KYLE ROWLAND

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kyle Rowland of Buckner, Missouri. Kyle is a very special young man

who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1082, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kyle has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Kyle has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Kyle Rowland for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO MR. SIDNEY LAPIDUS

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2008

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Mr. Sidney Lapidus and to congratulate him on receiving the Emma Lazarus Statue of Liberty Award. Mr. Lapidus's deep commitment to the American Jewish Historical Society has ensured that its collection is preserved and expanded for generations to come.

A graduate of Princeton University and Columbia University Law School, Sidney began his career as an attorney with the Securities and Exchange Commission in New York. A retired partner at Warburg Pincus LLC, one of the country's leading private equity firms, Sidney also serves on the boards of directors of Lennar Corporation, one of the Nation's largest homebuilders; Knoll Inc., a leading manufacturer of office furniture; and the Neiman Marcus Group, a leading upscale retailer.

Sidney contributes to and advocates on behalf of a number of charitable causes, several of which concern American history and Jewish affairs. He served as president of the American Jewish Historical Society from 2003 to 2007 and is now its chairman. He is a member of the advisory councils for Princeton University's History and Judaic Studies Departments. He is also a vice chairman of the American Antiquarian Society and is a trustee of the New York Historical Society. In other areas, he is chair of the United Neighborhood Houses of New York and a member of the executive committee of New York University School of Medicine.

Mr. Lapidus has balanced his distinguished career and philanthropic work with an equally impressive family life. He and his wife, Ruth, live in Harrison, New York. They have three married children—Gail, Janet and Roy—and six grandchildren—Sara, Eric, Kate, Henry, Jessica, and Zack. An avid skier, Sidney also collects British and American books about politics and economics from the 17th and 18th centuries.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize my good friend Mr. Sidney Lapidus for a successful career in finance and unparalleled devotion to charitable causes. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring his tremendous accomplishments.